

Message Text

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NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 MC-02
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, TU

SUBJECT: FY 78 SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY; F-4 PROGRAM

REF: STATE 0102059

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXTRACTS RELATED TO TURKEY FROM MAY 5
WASHINGTON POST PAGE 1 ARTICLE WITH HEADLINE: "CARTER
REBUFFED ON JET SALE TO TURKS; PRO-GREEK LAWMAKERS OPPOSED
PROPOSAL". ARTICLE DEALS WITH HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEE
ACTIONS ON FY 1978 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

BEGIN TEXT. SENATE AND HOUSE FOREIGN POLICY PANELS YESTER-
DAY REJECTED A CARTER ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL TO PERMIT THE
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GOVERNMENT SALE OF F-4 FIGHTER-BOMBERS TO TURKEY. THE PRO-
POSAL WAS A KEY ELEMENT IN AN ADMINISTRATION PACKAGE IN-
TENDED TO REPAIR STRAINED RELATIONS WITH THAT NORTH ATLANTIC
TREATY ORGANIZATION COUNTRY.

THE LEGISLATIVE ACTION CAME FOLLOWING STRONG OBJECTION TO
THE SALE BY PRO-GREEK LAWMAKERS. CAPITOL SOURCES SAID

PRESIDENT CARTER WAS TOLD HE WOULD HAVE TO WAGE A PERSONAL BATTLE TO SALVAGE HIS F-4 PROPOSALS. ALTHOUGH SOME LAW-MAKERS BELIEVED THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS WERE GOOD, CARTER REPORTEDLY DECLINED TO MAKE THE FIGHT.

THE TURKISH DECISION WAS AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS OF FINAL MARKUP SESSIONS YESTERDAY BY THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE DOLS 3.2 BILLION FOREIGN MILITARY AID BILL.

ON AID TO TURKEY, BOTH SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES APPROVED DOLS 175 MILLION IN MILITARY SALES CREDITS FOR 1978, WHICH IS DOLS 50 MILLION MORE THAN THE SUM ALLOWED IN THE PRESENT BUDGET YEAR. HOWEVER THIS WILL NOT BE ENOUGH TO COMPLETE THE PROCUREMENT OF 40 F-4 WARPLANES UNDER CONTRACTS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

LAWMAKERS SUGGESTED THAT TURKEY COULD COMPLETE THE PURCHASE AS A COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION. HOWEVER, THE TURKS ARE REPORTED RELUCTANT TO DO THIS FOR POLITICAL REASONS AT HOME, AND STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS FEAR A SEVERE REACTION AGAINST THE CONGRESSIONAL REJECTION OF THE GOVERNMENT SALE. UNQUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING ARE FINAL THREE PARAGRAPHS OF PAGE 11 NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE CONCERNING VARIOUS COMMITTEE ACTIONS ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

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QUOTE. BOTH COMMITTEES ACCEPTED A COMPROMISE WORKED OUT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION ON AID FOR TURKEY. THERE HAD BEEN A GENERAL EMBARGO ON ARMS ASSISTANCE AND SALES AGAINST TURKEY INVOKED BECAUSE OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS IN 1974.

THEY APPROVED DOLS 175 MILLION IN MILITARY SALES CREDITS FOR TURKEY--DOLS 50 MILLION MORE THAN AUTHORIZED BY THE FORD ADMINISTRATION FOR EACH OF THE TWO PREVIOUS YEARS--BUT SCRAPPED THE ORIGINAL ADMINISTRATION REQUEST THAT TURKEY BE ALLOWED TO EXCEED THAT AMOUNT FOR THE PURCHASE OF F-4 JET FIGHTER-BOMBERS.

UNDER THE NEW PROVISION, TURKEY MAY USE ANY PART OF THE DOLS 175 MILLION TO CONTINUE ITS PURCHASES OF 40 OF THE AIRCRAFT, ON WHICH IT HAS ALREADY INVESTED DOLS 134 MILLION, BUT BEYOND THE AUTHORIZED AMOUNT THE TURKS WOULD HAVE TO USE COMMERCIAL CHANNELS. UNQUOTE.

3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR USE BY
DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN MAY 5:

QUOTE. QUESTION: GIVEN THE ACTION YESTERDAY BY THE SENATE
AND HOUSE FOREIGN POLICY PANELS IN WHICH THEY REJECTED A
PROPOSAL TO PERMIT THE GOVERNMENT TO SELL F-4 AIRCRAFT TO
TURKEY, WHAT HAPPENS NOW ON THE F-4 SITUATION?

ANSWER: WHILE WE ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT THE FULL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM FOR TURKEY WILL APPARENTLY NOT BE APPROVED, THE
ADMINISTRATION REMAINS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING THE F-4
MODERNIZATION PROGRAM FOR THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES. WE
ARE READY TO EXPLORE WITH TURKISH AUTHORITIES WAYS TO KEEP
THE PROGRAM GOING. WE SEE VARIOUS SOLUTIONS INCLUDING USE
OF THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES CREDITS PROPOSED FOR TURKEY
IN 1978. I DO NOT FEEL THAT IT IS APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS
THESE IN ADVANCE OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH TURKISH OFFICIALS.
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QUESTION: WHY WON'T THE ADMINISTRATION PRESS THE CONGRESS
ON THE F-4'S FOR TURKEY?

ANSWER: OUR VIEWS WERE PRESENTED IN TESTIMONY BY COUNSELOR
NIMETZ ON APRIL 21 AND IN OTHER APPEARANCES BEFORE CONGRES-
SIONAL COMMITTEES OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. WE WOULD
JUST NOTE THAT THE CONGRESS HAD MADE OTHER MODIFICATIONS IN
THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROGRAM OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND
THAT IT HAS APPROVED THE REST OF THE PROGRAM FOR TURKEY.

QUESTION: WILL YOU CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR THE REST OF THE
PACKAGE?

ANSWER: YES. WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE APPARENT INTENTION
OF THE CONGRESS TO ACCEPT THE ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDA-
TION THAT THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES CREDIT LEVEL FOR
TURKEY BE INCREASED TO DOLS 175 MILLION IN 1978 (COMPARED
WITH DOLS 125 MILLION IN 1977). I WOULD NOTE THAT THE
HOUSE AND SENATE ALTERED AND CUT BACK THE ADMINISTRATION'S
PROPOSALS FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE IN MANY AREAS AND THEIR
ACTION DID NOT IN ANY WAY SINGLE OUT TURKEY FOR SPECIAL
ADVERSE TREATMENT.

QUESTION: WHAT DOES THE REMAINDER OF THE PACKAGE NOW CON-
SIST OF?

ANSWER: THE ESSENCE OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE TO
TURKEY IS DOLS 175 MILLION IN FOREIGN MILITARY SALES
FINANCING FOR FY 78 WHICH BOTH THE SENATE AND HOUSE COM-
MITTEES APPROVED YESTERDAY. THAT REPRESENTS AN INCREASE

OF DOLS 50 MILLION OVER THE AMOUNT ALLOWED IN THE PRESENT BUDGET YEAR.

QUESTION: HAVE THE TURKS EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS TO US ABOUT THE ACTIONS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES?
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ANSWER: WE HAVE BEEN IN FREQUENT COMMUNICATION WITH THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THEY KNOW OF OUR COMMITMENT TO THE F-4 PROGRAM AND WHILE WE EXPECT THEM TO BE DISAPPOINTED, WE EXPECT TO WORK WITH THEM ON OTHER APPROACHES TO MAINTAIN THE F-4 PROGRAM. AS YOU KNOW, AMONG OTHER BILATERAL MEETINGS, THE PRESIDENT WILL MEET WITH THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER DURING THE COURSE OF THE NATO SUMMIT MEETING AND THE MATTER OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY MAY BE DISCUSSED FURTHER AT THAT TIME. THE SECRETARY MET WITH THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR LAST NIGHT TO PREPARE FOR THE LONDON MEETING AND THE SUBJECT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE WAS ALSO DISCUSSED.

QUESTION: WHAT AFFECT WILL THIS CONGRESSIONAL ACTION HAVE ON THE CYPRUS TALKS?

ANSWER: THE SEARCH FOR A JUST SITUATION TO THE CYPRUS ISSUE IS NOT RELATED TO THE 1978 US-TURKISH MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AND WE EXPECT THAT TURKEY AND THE TURKISH-CYPRIOTS WILL MAINTAIN THEIR EFFORTS TO WORK FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

WE THINK IT IMPORTANT THAT THE PROCESS WHICH BEGAN IN AN EARLIER ROUND IN VIENNA CONTINUE. A SECOND ROUND IS SCHEDULED LATER THIS MONTH IN NICOSIA. WHILE THE GAP IN POSITIONS IS WIDE AND WILL NOT BE EASILY BRIDGED, WE BELIEVE THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS CAN BE USEFUL IN PROBING AND CLARIFYING THE PROPOSALS ON TERRITORY AND THE FUTURE GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE FOR CYPRUS WHICH WERE PRESENTED IN THE LAST VIENNA MEETING.

FOR OUR PART, WE ARE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE IN ANY WAY WE CAN TO SUPPORT THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS WHICH IS TAKING PLACE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL. UNQUOTE.

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4. TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS BRIEFING SENT USIA WIRELESS FILE.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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